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Note by the Secretary-General

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* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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1. International Cartographic Association

(Special; 1987)

1. Aims and purpose

The International Cartographic Association (ICA) is the world authoritative body for cartography and Geographical Information Science (GIS) and its mission is to promote the discipline and profession of cartography and GIS in an international context. Cartography is the discipline dealing with the conception, production, dissemination and study of maps. A map is a symbolized image of geographic reality, representing selected features or characteristics, resulting from the creative efforts of cartographers, and is designed for use when spatial relationships are of special relevance. GIScience is the scientific context of spatial information processing and management including associated technology as well as commercial, social and environmental implications. Information processing and management include data analysis and transformations, data management and information visualization.

The ICA exists:

- to contribute to the understanding and solution of worldwide problems through the use of cartography and GIS in decision-making processes;
- to foster the international dissemination of environmental, economic, social and spatial information through mapping;
- to provide a global forum for discussion of the role and status of cartography and GIS;
- to facilitate the transfer of new cartographic and GIS technology and knowledge between nations, especially to the developing nations;
- to carry out or to promote multinational cartographic and GIS research in order to solve scientific and applied problems;
- to enhance cartographic and GIS education in the broadest sense through publications, seminars and conferences;
- to promote the use of professional and technical standards in cartography and GIS.

The Association works with national and international governmental and commercial bodies and with other international scientific societies to achieve these aims.

The membership of ICA is by nation only and there are currently 84 members.

The category of affiliate member allows for organisations within a country, either scientific or commercial that have interests or commitments in cartography and geographic information, to become involved. ICA currently has 20 affiliate members.

2. Participation in Economic and Social Council and other United Nations meetings

The ICA participates as an observer to the United Nations Regional Cartographic Conferences. During this period, background and/or invited papers have been given during

- Third Meeting of the Committee on Development Information (CODI), on Information and Governance, at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 10-27 May 2003
- Fourth meeting of the Committee on Development Information (CODI), on Information as an economic resource, 23-28 April 2005, Addis Ababa
- Fifth meeting of the Committee on Development Information (CODI), on employment and the knowledge economy
- Eighth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas, held in New York, 27 June-1 July 2005. During this conference Dra Carmen Reyes Guerrero, Directora General of the Centro de Investigación en Geografía y Geomática "Ing. Jorge L. Tamayo" in Mexico-City, and Prof. Dr. Menno-Jan Kraak, Chairman of the Department of Geoinformation Processing of the International Institute for Geo-information Science and Earth Observation (ITC), in Enschede, the Netherlands, gave presentations on behalf of ICA
- Sixteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific, Report of the Conference, Okinawa, Japan, 14-18 July 2003
- Seventeenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific, Report of the Conference, Bangkok, Thailand, 18-22 September 2006

The ICA participates as observer in the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names(UNGEGN). During this period it participated in:

- the Twenty-second Session of the UNGEGN in New York, 20-29 April 2004
- the Twenty-third Session of the UNGEGN, in Vienna, 28 March-4 April 2006

3. Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies

The ICA has had contact with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), especially through the Barbara Petchenik Children Map Award, a large competition opened to children who submit map drawings every two years. A selection of the drawings is displayed during ICA International Cartographic Conferences and five to fifteen participants receive an award. The winning drawings are submitted to the UNICEF International Art Committee for consideration as greeting card designs.

The ICA has had contact with the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group since its inception and during the reporting period has participated in many of its meetings.

March 3, 2004, ICA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) in Vienna. In the framework of this new cooperations Prof dr Graciela Metternicht, chair of the ICA Commission on Mapping from Satellite Imagery, participated in UNOOSA workshops in Zambia (Lusaka, 26-30 June 2006).

2. International Chamber of Shipping

(Special; 1971)

Part I — Introduction

The International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) is the principal international trade association for ship operators, whose membership comprises national shipowners' associations from 36 countries, representing 70% of the world's merchant tonnage in all sectors and trades. ICS is concerned with all regulatory, operational and legal issues, and has consultative status with a number of intergovernmental bodies which have an impact on shipping, not least the United Nations International Maritime Organization (IMO).

Part II — Contribution to the work of the United Nations

i) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and / or major conferences and other United Nations meetings.

ICS participated in the following sessions of the parent Committees of the United Nations International Maritime Organization (IMO), which have taken place at IMO headquarters in London (unless stated otherwise) as follows:

Maritime Safety Committee (MSC): MSC 77 (28 May-6 June 2003), MSC 78 (12-21 May 2004), MSC 79 (1-10 December 2004), MSC 80 (11-20 May 2005), MSC 81 (10-19 May 2006), MSC 82 (29 November-8 December 2006, Istanbul, Turkey).

Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC): MEPC 49 (14-18 July 2003), MEPC 50 (1-4 December 2003), MEPC 51 (29 March-2 April 2004), MEPC 52 (11-15 October 2004), MEPC 53 (18-22 July 2005), MEPC 54 (20-24 March 2006).

Legal Committee (LEG): LEG 86 (28 April-2 May 2003), LEG 87 (13-17 October 2003), LEG 88 (19-23 April 2004), LEG 89 (25-29 October 2004), LEG 90 (18-29 April 2005), LEG 91 (24-28 April 2006), LEG 92 (16-20 October 2006, Paris).

Facilitation Committee (FAL): FAL 30 (19-23 July 2003), FAL 31 (19-23 July 2004), FAL 32 (4-8 July 2005), FAL 33 (3-7 July 2006).

Technical Co-operation Committee (TC): TC 53 (11-12 June 2003), TC 54 (15-17 June 2004), TC 55 (14-16 June 2005), TC 56 (13-15 June 2006).

ICS has also attended all meetings of the IMO Assembly (A23 25 November-5 December 2003 and A24 21 November-2 December 2005), and Council (C94 16-20 June 2003, C95 21-25 June 2004, C96 20-24 June 2005, C97 19-23 June 2006), and has actively participated in all meetings of the IMO technical sub-committees.

ICS is also actively involved in all relevant IMO technical working groups and inter-sessional correspondence groups, such as the IMO / ILO (United Nations International Labour Organization) / Basel Joint Working Group on Ship Scrapping (15-17 February and 12-14 December 2005, Geneva) and the IMO Inter-Industry Working Group on Fires and Explosions in Chemical and Small Product Tankers (established 2005).

Through its sister organisation, the International Shipping Federation (ISF), ICS is also involved in the work of the United Nations International Labour Organization (ILO). As one of the ILO social partners, ISF co-ordinates the views of maritime employers in ILO tripartite discussions and was closely involved in the negotiations on the 2003 ILO Convention on Seafarers' Identity Documents (ILO 185) and the 2006 ILO Maritime Labour Convention (MLC), and participated in the ILO International Labour Conferences in Geneva, 3-19 June 2003 and 7-23 February 2006 at which ILO 185 and the MLC, respectively, were adopted.

ICS has also been closely involved in the negotiations on a new legal instrument on liability for carriage of goods, under the auspices of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), and has participated in the biennial meetings of the UNCITRAL Working Group (April in New York, the United States of America and November / December in Vienna, Austria).

ii) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and / or specialized agencies in the field and / or at Headquarters.

Promoting implementation of the IMO Ballast Water Management Convention (9-13 February 2004) and the ILO Maritime Labour Convention (28 February 2006) through development of industry guidance.

ICS is represented on the board of governors of the IMO World Maritime University, and since 2003 has provided funding for a University fellowship.

IMO World Maritime Day celebrations (29 September 2005 and 28 September 2006) - ICS helped produce special leaflets underlining the chosen themes of the annual IMO celebrations (World Trade in 2005 and Technical Co-operation in 2006), circulated to policy makers world wide. ICS also contributed to an industry World Maritime Day event in London in 29 September 2006.

iii) Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular, the Millennium Development Goals, which now form the basis of the global agenda for the 21st century.

i) Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

MDG 1 — The eradication of extreme poverty and hunger —

In 2004 ICS co-ordinated the development of the Shipping Facts website (www.shippingfacts.com) which provides clear information on the economic importance of shipping and its contribution to

improving standards of living, for use by policy advisers, political researchers or mainstream journalists.

ICS is also committed to the principle of free trade and has continued to promote the importance of a successful conclusion to the Doha Round of World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations. ICS produced a special brochure, designed to coincide with the WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China in 13-18 December 2005, which emphasised the importance of liberalised shipping services to the world economy, and which was forwarded to WTO trade negotiators.

MDG 7 — Ensure environmental sustainability

ICS has continued to promote the implementation of the IMO International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, not least through the development of best practice and industry guides on environmental compliance, such as the ICS leaflet on Oily Water Separators.

ii) Activities in support of Global Principles

ICS produces a range of publications promoting the implementation of IMO Conventions (listed at www.marisec.org/pubs), to ensure a global standard.

The 2006 ICS DVD film, 'International Shipping: Life Blood of World Trade', underlines the importance of shipping's international regulatory framework, for use by national shipowners' associations during dialogue with policy makers worldwide.

3. International Federation for Housing and Planning

(Special; 1947)

The International Federation for Housing and Planning (IFHP) was founded in 1913. It has both individual and organizational Members in over 60 countries. It is a world-wide network of professionals of various disciplines in the broad field of housing and planning. It organises activities and offers facilities for international exchange of knowledge and experiences in the professional field. IFHP aims to improve the housing and planning profession by learning and networking. It intends to contribute both to the steady evolution of the profession itself and to the development of solutions for actual problems. It gives high priority to the detection of the latest trends and the renewal of policies. IFHP provokes discussions between experts, politicians and interest groups at the right time, i.e. before final problem solving decisions have to be made. IFHP aspires tot optimise learning effects by using the comparison as a method. Comparisons of equal issues set in situations that differ geographically, economically of culturally may catch a totally new light on a current approach or on a yet unsolved problem.

IFHP Publications 2003-2006

Besides the publication of reports of all IFHP activities, the following publications have been produced in the period 2003-2006: on a regular basis: The quarterly "IFHP Newsletter", the yearly "Latest Developments in the Field of Housing and Planning and Membership List and Directory".

Official Relations: With the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Legal Seat: Change of the legal seat of the IFHP in 2005 from Brussels (Belgium) to the Hague, the Netherlands.

Activities in 2003

- **IFHP International Spring Conference: 31 May-3 June - Letchworth London, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Theme: Enhancing Urban Quality: The Green Dimensions**
- **IFHP Working Party Urban Land Policy (ULP) Meeting: 5-6 June - Tallinn, Estonia. Theme: Public and Private Land Development in the Baltic Region**
- **IFHP Working Party Multifunctional and Intensive Land Use (MILU) Meeting: 4-6 June, Gdynia, Poland. Theme: Multifunctional and Intensive Land Use**
- **IFHP Summer School Finland: 27 July-9 August - Otaniemi-Helsinki-Porvoo-Jyväskylä, Finland. Theme: Cultural Heritage in Regenerating Suburban and Rural Areas**
- **IFHP Summer School Germany: 29 June-9 September, Berlin, Germany. Theme: Social Transformation Processes in Urban Regions: an International Exchange between the Cities of Astana, Tashkent, Tehran and Berlin**
- **IFHP Summer School Italy: 31 August-13 September, Sabaudia, Italy**
- **IFHP Working Party Tourism and Urban Development (TUD) — Tourism and Urban Development Meeting: 25-27 September, Oporto, Portugal**
- **IFHP Working Party "Pour une ville de nouvelle mesure": 19-20 September, Paris, France. Study of 5 themes: Public Space, the Time Dimension, Urban Life, Financing, and Policy Development**
- **47th IFHP World Congress: 5-8 October, Vienna, Austria. Theme: Cities and Markets, Shifts in Urban Development**
- **11th IFHP Student Competition: 5-8 October, Vienna, Austria. Theme: The Local & the International in Your City of the Future**
- **Czech IFHP Seminar: 10-11 November, Brno, Czech Republic. Theme: National Urban Development Policy**

Activities in 2004

- IFHP Working Party Multifunctional and Intensive Land Use (MILU) Meeting: 9-12 May, Portland, Oregon, United States of America. Theme: Multifunctional (mixed) Use of Land Space and Developments of Portland
- IFHP Working Party Pour une ville de nouvelle mesure: 14 May, Paris France; 5-6 November, Brussels, Belgium
- IFHP Spring Conference: 30 May-2 June, Vilnius, Lithuania. Theme: Cities Moving Forward: Policies, Instruments and Conditions
- IFHP Summer School Finland: 1-14 August, Porvoo-Jyväskylä, Finland. Theme: To Regenerate Cultural Heritage
- IFHP Summer School Italy: 29 August-11 September, Sabaudia, Italy
- 48th IFHP World congress: 5-9 September, Oslo, Norway. Theme: Urban Governance for Urban Change
- 14th IFHP Film/Video Competition: 31 August-4 September, Oslo, Norway. Theme: Lights and Shadows of Cities
- IFHP Working Party Multifunctional and Intensive Land Use (MILU): 7 September, Oslo, Norway
- IFHP Working Party Present-Day Urban Public Spaces: 7 September Oslo, Norway
- IFHP Working Party Tourism and Urban Development TUD: 10-13 October, La Valetta, Malta
- IFHP Working Party Housing and Urban Settlements: 17-20 October, Riga, Latvia

Activities in 2005

- IFHP Working Party "Les règles d'urbanisme": 23 January, Paris, France. Focus on the Legal Aspects of Spatial and Physical Planning
- IFHP Working Party Urban Land Policy: 24-27 April, Istanbul, Turkey. Seminar on Public-Private Actors in Urban Development Projects
- IFHP Spring Conference: 21-25 May, Portland, Oregon, the United States. Theme: The Intentional City: Applying Local Values and Choice in a Global Context
- IFHP Summer School Finland: 15-28 August, Otaniemi-Helsinki-Porvoo-Jyväskylä, Finland. Theme: New Urbanity for the Existing Townscape, more specifically for Jyväskylä: Restoring the Identify of Säynätsalo, and for Porvoo: The Riverside Waterfront
- IFHP Summer School Italy: 29 August-11 September, Sabaudia, Italy
- IFHP Summer School China: 1-14 August, Tianjin, China. Theme: Urban Renewal in the 21st Century — Heritage, Regeneration & Development
- IFHP Working Party Housing and Urban Settlements: 11-14 September, Tallinn, Estonia. Seminar Large-Scale High-rise Areas of the Post-War Era
- IFHP Working Party Multifunctional and Intensive Land Use (MILU): 4 October - Rome (Italy). Workshop MILU net Midterm Review of the Implementation Labs of The Hague: Stockholm, Mantova and Huelva

- 49th IFHP World Congress: 2-5 October, Rome, Italy. Theme: Urban Futures: Continuities and Discontinuities
- 12th International IFHP Student Competition: 28 September-2 October, Rome, Italy. Theme: Restructuring an Urban or a Rural Space to Enhance Identity
- Working Party Tourism and Urban Development: 18-20 October, Budapest, Hungary. Seminar on How New Tourism Products Influence Historic Cities

Activities in 2006

- IFHP Working Party Urban Land Policy: 23-25 April, Krakow, Poland. Theme: How to Generate Financial Revenues from Urban Developments
- IFHP Working Party Continuity and Change in Cities: 14-17 May, Oslo, Norway. Theme: Balancing Preservation, Development and Renewal
- IFHP Spring Conference: 28-31 May, Macao, Province of China. Theme: Innovations in the Urban Habitat
- IFHP Working Party Housing and Urban Settlements: 10-13 June, Belfast, the United Kingdom and Dublin, Ireland. Themes: - Re-structuring of Large Scale Post-War Housing Estates Problems of Housing Affordability
- IFHP Summer School Finland: 7-19 August, Otaniemi/Helsinki, Turku/Jyväskylä, Finland. Theme: Urban Planning and Design
- IFHP Summer School Italy: 28 August-9 September, Sabaudia, Italy. Theme: Public Space and the Beauty of the City
- 49th IFHP World Congress: 10-14 September, Geneva, Switzerland. Theme: Urban Life, Boundaries and Transformations
- IFHP Working Party Tourism and Urban Development: 30 September-3 October, Göteborg, Sweden. Theme: Integrated Policies for Tourism & Sustainable Development in Historic Cities.

4. Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development

(Special; 1995)

Part 1 Introduction

The Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD) was established in 1977. Its aim is to improve the well-being of poor and marginalized people across Jordan by promoting rights-based sustainable human development.

JOHUD has five main course of action to promote sustainable human development.

JOHUD acts as a catalyst for communities to work together to play a leading role in local development processes; JOHUD provides training, research and consultancy services to build individual and institutional capacity; JOHUD implements projects that tackle specific problems and

empower people to improve the well-being of all segments of society; JOHUD builds alliances and advocates for policies that are equitable and socially inclusive; JOHUD mobilises resources from individuals and organisations to provide a 'safety net' for the most vulnerable.

JOHUD operates across the whole country, through its network of 50 community development centres, JOHUD helps people work together to improve livelihoods and to ensure that everyone has access to the entitlements that contribute to healthy and fulfilled lives.

The broad aims and objectives of JOHUD remain focussed on national work within Jordan. However, JOHUD has broadened its scope and now operates regionally by providing training, research and consultancy services in the Arab region (Bahrain, Qatar, Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq (pre 2004), Sudan, Saudi Arabia, and Lebanon). This outreach work is consolidated by activities organised by JOHUD that attract participants from the whole region. Between 2003 and 2006, JOHUD organised 4 regional workshops on Reproductive Rights, with 100+ delegates from 15 countries of the Arab Region. JOHUD staff also took part in regional workshops and attended regional conferences, thereby strengthening the capacity of this region to develop and pursue a regional approach to sustainable human development.

Part II Contribution to the work on the United Nations

1. Participation in work of the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations meetings

The United Nations Global Youth Leadership Summit 29-31 October 2006 in New York, the United States of America, JOHUD staff member (Danah Dajani) represented youth of region at the Unite Nations Headquarter to assembly with speech and visual presentation.

Copenhagen + 10: 43rd Session of the United Nations Commission on Social Development, 9-18 February 2005, in New York, the United States, JOHUD staff member (Huda Hakki) attends sessions as part of official Jordanian delegation.

2. Cooperation with the United Nations bodies and/or specialised agencies in field or at Headquarters

Project in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to promote reproductive health and family planning 2003-2005

i) Project in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as implementing agency for production of Jordan's National Human Development report, 2001-2004

ii) Project in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to tackle child labour 2006-2008

iii) Projects in collaboration with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and Jordan National Commission for Women (JNCW) to mainstream gender in government department (land and survey) 2002-2005

iv) Activities with Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in support of Alliance Against Hunger 2006-2007
v) Project in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to support oral intangible cultural heritage of bedu people 2006-2007
vi) Project in collaboration with UNFPA to advocating for reproductive health, gender and violence against women 2004-2007
vii) Project in collaboration with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to build the Capacity and support community based activities in the Syrian Arab Republic 2006
viii) Project in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to enhance parental care at the local level 2003 — on going
ix) Project in collaboration with UNICEF to enhance of Adolescents' Participation in the School Life 2006-2007
x) Project in collaboration with UNIFEM to raise the awareness on HIV/AIDS among youth 2006-2007
xi) Project in collaboration with FAO on home garden in 2005
xii) Project in collaboration with UNRWA to train on gender 2006 in the Syrian Arab Republic
xiii) Project in collaboration with UNICEF to establish friendly youth centres for youth in 2006
xiv) Project in collaboration with UNIFEM on mainstreaming gender in public institutions (Ministry of Labour and Ministry of Foreign Affairs), 2006-2007

3. Initiatives contributing to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

The process of implementing the 2004 National Human Development Report played a major role in raising awareness of all aspects of the MDGs and in particular in support of the United Nations Human Rights Conventions as the framework for a rights-based approach to development.

The organisation contributed to MDGs across Jordan through its core work in all aspects of sustainable human development. With an estimated 50,000 beneficiaries reached every year through the network of 50 Community Development Centres, and a further 25,000 reached through projects and the safety net support, JOHUD has contributed to reduce poverty and hunger for over 75,000 people per year.

4. Activities in support of global principles

Launch of Jordan National Human Development Report (27 June 2004) — JOHUD as the implementing agency led the launch of the report: Building Sustainable Livelihoods — an event attended by around 400 key decision makers and opinion leaders including Government of Jordan Ministers. The event was held under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma bint Talal, who is also a Goodwill Ambassador for UNDP, UNFPA and UNIFEM. The event was well covered by media sources (TV, newspapers, radio etc.).

The organisation has not participated significantly in the work of the Economic and Social Council and subsidiary bodies or in United Nations meetings during this period because the mandate of

JOHUD and its mission is to promote grassroots actions in support of poor and marginalised communities. JOHUD focuses on implementing projects at community level — reaching out to more than 50,000 beneficiaries with an integrated programme to promote social, economic, political and cultural empowerment. JOHUD does, however, act in collaboration with a wide range of United Nations agencies as a project partner and values this cooperation.

The organisation would collaborate more fruitfully with the United Nations if the United Nations agencies explicitly adopted a policy of engaging proactively with civil society (as well as with host governments) at all stages of their work — with obligations to consult and engage, and targets to monitor this engagement. Such a mechanism should also include accountability mechanisms included a greater role for local civil society to provide feedback through independent channels.

5. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

(Special; 2003)

Introduction

Founded in 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is the oldest and largest grassroots-based civil rights organization in the United States of America. Comprised of 2,200 units with members throughout the world, the NAACP's advocacy efforts focus on areas such as education, health, and economic empowerment, among others. While the NAACP has a long history of fighting for human and civil rights of all Americans including those of African descent, the organization formally created an International Affairs Department in 2005. This department has helped to strengthen and sharpen our focus on international issues.

Contribution to the work of the United Nations: support of global principles

Since the organizations' founding, the NAACP has tirelessly supported globally recognized human and civil rights throughout the world. In support of this aim, the NAACP has been involved in multiple projects between 2003 and 2006.

The NAACP actively engages in advocacy and education on legislation before the United States Congress on a plethora of international issues. These actions include working with members of the Congress and staff members in the crafting of legislation, drafting and delivering testimony before the United States Congress, as well as creating and distributing Action Alerts, Issue Briefs and Issue Updates aimed at informing and educating the American public about different issues and how they can be more actively involved in making improvements.

In 2005, the NAACP supported Congressional action that urged the White House to release $146 million in loans to Haiti that were being held up. In 2002, this resolution was unanimously endorsed by the United States and other delegations to the Organization of American States. Among other things, it resolved to "support normalization of economic cooperation between the Government of

Haiti and the international financial institutions and urge those parties to resolve technical and financial obstacles that preclude such normalization."

The NAACP also worked hard to successfully urge the United States Congress to support the Africa Growth and Opportunity Acceleration Act of 2004. This legislation renewed provisions that give trade advantages to imports from some African countries as well as technical assistance to help those nations improve their economies through September 2015. Renewing these provisions was crucial to help African industry gain a fair place in the global marketplace prior to worldwide quotas being removed in January 2005.

The NAACP has also worked tirelessly to help pass legislation to increase funding for the Global AIDS fund. The aim of this bill was to provide $15 billion to assist in fighting HIV/AIDS around the world. Such support was of particular importance to regions with high rates of HIV/AIDS infection. These efforts were successful as the bill was signed into law on 27 May 2003.

The NAACP also worked to support legislation to lift trade embargoes against Cuba. These trade embargoes have consistently proven to be counterproductive and have a negative impact on the lives of Cubans and American businesses. Thus, the NAACP worked to and continues to support a bill aimed at lifting the trade embargo.

Other legislation that the NAACP has focused on includes the Sudan Peace Act. Signed into law on 21 October 2002, this Act appropriated $100 million for the fiscal years 2003 through 2005 to help prepare the people of Sudan for peace as well as to provide support in areas such as education and health care. The NAACP monitored this implementation while working on legislation aimed at halting the atrocities in Darfur, the Sudan.

The NAACP has also engaged in hands-on projects aimed at improving human rights around the world. The following are examples of projects that the NAACP has worked on to address issues faced by different parts of Africa.

The NAACP has also recognized the conflict in Darfur, the Sudan, for over a decade now; however, since 2003 we have worked with our grassroots units on United States policies to assist in bringing an end to these atrocities. Such efforts include disseminating information to NAACP members and others in order to educate them about the atrocities occurring in Darfur, the Sudan. The NAACP has also participated in letter writing campaigns to the United States President, members of the Congress and State Department, requesting action to address the conflict in Darfur, the Sudan. This campaign occurred in 2005 and achieved its goal of collecting over 4,000 letters. This number was significant as 4,000 was the approximate death toll at the time of the letter writing campaign.

More recently, the NAACP worked to raise awareness among the American public, United States Congress, and the President about the conflict in Darfur, the Sudan, by successfully assisting in organizing as well as participating in a demonstration and rally in Washington, DC on 30 April 2006. Along with other civil and human rights groups, the NAACP helped to influence the decision of United States President to send Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick to assist in brokering a

peace agreement between the Government of the Sudan and the rebels. The NAACP also helped to encourage the United States President to support the African Union and to send additional troops to the Sudan. The NAACP continues to address issues in the Sudan and collaborates with multiple organizations to achieve this aim.

Also in 2006, the NAACP joined forces with United States and international coalition partners to urge that the United States Congress and President to hold a joint session of Congress to hear from newly elected Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf regarding 100 million dollars in emergency supplemental funds for Liberia. The NAACP also developed research studies and prepared talking points focused on needs in Liberia. The result was a $64 million United States appropriation to address the needs of Liberia.

In 2006, the NAACP also worked with actor Isaiah Washington to address health, education and other challenges in Sierra Leone. This initiative included a trip to Sierra Leone during which Mr. Washington and the NAACP met with leaders in the government, public and private sectors as well as local people to discuss problems such as a lack of clean water, hospitals and schools. These travels were filmed for later usage as a documentary that was shown during subsequent meetings with members of the United States Congress. The aim of these meetings was to raise awareness about these issues in Sierra Leone as well as gather support for addressing these issues.

Further, the NAACP has recognized the needs of the people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. To this aim, the NAACP participated in the creation of Congo Global Action, a collection of humanitarian, human rights, civil rights, environmental, faith-based and Congolese organizations. This consortium of organizations seeks to support positive growth for the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The NAACP has also worked to address human, voting, social, and economic rights for peoples of the African Diaspora. Beginning in early 2006, the NAACP began working with officials from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, resulting in the extension of an invitation to the NAACP to serve as observers to the 2006 Presidential Elections on 3 December 2006. The NAACP accepted the invitation and sent a delegation from 28 November – 6 December 2006 to serve in this capacity. Following the election, the NAACP made its recommendations and in February of 2007 released a report entitled, *"An Observational Briefing of the 2006 Venezuelan Presidential Election"*. This opportunity also helped to build and strengthen the relationship between the NAACP, the government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and the Afro-Venezuelan community.

In 2005-06, the international media reported ongoing civil unrest throughout France's minority suburban neighborhoods. Impressed with the relative success of the American civil rights movement and the NAACP's contribution to that effort, in 2005 Conseil Représentatif des Associationa Noires (CRAN) inquired about NAACP strategies in building a successful civil rights organization and recommended ways to help advance full citizenship rights for all living in France, regardless of race, ethnicity or religion. To this end, the NAACP met with CRAN in Paris on April 28-29, 2006 to discuss the NAACP's history and its Brown vs. Board strategy in dismantling America's separate but

equal doctrine. The speeches were well received and CRAN requested that the NAACP return in 2007 to provide further consultation.

In conclusion, the NAACP has a long history of successfully working to address human and civil rights of people around the world. The NAACP is committed to continuing these successful efforts.